

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01

USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

SAM-01 SAB-01 /047 W

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O R 251055Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 483

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0609

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR QA SA

SUBJECT : AMIR OF QATAR TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA

1. RADIO QATAR ANNOUNCED ON MORNING OF MAY 25 THAT AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, WAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART THAT DAY FOR BRIEF VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR MEETING WITH KING KHALID. PLACE SOURCE, WHO CONFIRMED AMIR'S TRAVEL PLANS, TOLDS US HOWEVER THAT SUDDEN DEATH OF AMIR'S HALF BROTHER (SEPTAL - NOTAL) MAY CAUSE POSTPONEMENT OF TRIP FOR "ONE OR TWO DAYS". RADIO SUBSEQUENTLY BROADCAST THAT AMIR'S DEPARTURE DELAYED UNTIL MAY 27.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST WE'VE HEARD THAT AMIR TO VISIT RIYADH, BUT IT NOT RPT NOT UNCOMMON FOR GOQ TO KEEP KHALIFA'S TRAVEL PLANS SECRET UNTIL LAST MINUTE. GIVEN EXTREMELY CLOSE GOQ-SAG TIES, POSSIBLY CHANGED GULF SECURITY SITUATION AS RESULT OF IRAN/IRAQ AGREEMENT, CURRENT FLURRY OF CONSULTATIONS AMONG GULF RULERS, AND PRESISTENT TALK ABOUT GULF SUMMIT, GULF SECURITY PACT, AND GULF UNITY, KHALIFA'S DESIRE TO VISIT RIYADH UNDER-CONFIDENTIAL

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STANDABLE. AMIR IS KNOWN TO BE BEARISH ABOUT RECENT MOVEMENTS

IN REGION, AND APPARENTLY WANTS TO CHECK THINGS OUT WITH SAUDI
BIG BROTHERS FROM WHOM HE ACCUSTOMED TO TAKE GUIDANCE. IN
ADDITION, IT WILL ALSO BE HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO ASSDJS NEW
LEADERSHIP TEAM IN KINGDOM SINCE HIS ATTENDANCE AT KING FAISAL'S
FUNERAL.
PAGANELLI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DOHA00609
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0095
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaapwj.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : AMIR OF QATAR TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA
TAGS: PFOR, QA, SA, (THANI, KHALIFA IBN HAMAD AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006